



WISCONSIN FARM REPORTER

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December Milk Prices

Wisconsin's December milk price is expected to average \$16.60 per hundred weight (cwt.). This price is 90 cents higher than November's price of \$15.70 per cwt., but \$1.20 less than December 2008.

The expected U.S. milk price for December is \$16.30 per cwt., this is up \$1.00 from November, and 30 cents lower than Wisconsin's price. All 23 of the major milk producing states are predicting a price increase from November to December. California is expecting the largest increase of \$1.46 per cwt.

The Chicago Mercantile Exchange (CME) 40-pound block price closed at \$1.4500 per pound on December 31, while barrels were \$1.4300 per pound. The CME butter price was \$1.3275 per pound.

For the week ending December 26, 2009, the National Agricultural Statistics Service, U.S. weekly 40-pound block cheese price averaged \$1.6917 per pound and 500 pound barrels adjusted to 38 percent moisture averaged \$1.4994 per pound. The U.S. butter price was \$1.3556 per pound.

The Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) Class III price for December is \$14.98 per cwt.

Milk Prices 1/

Selected states	November 2008		November 2009		December 2009	
	Price per cwt.	Fat Test	Price per cwt.	Fat Test	Price per cwt.	Fat Test
	Dollars	Percent	Dollars	Percent	Dollars	Percent
Milk for all uses						
WI	17.80	3.81	15.70	3.76	16.60	3.76
CA	15.24	3.71	13.94	3.75	15.40	3.80
ID	15.70	3.68	14.80	3.75	15.50	3.80
MI	18.10	3.75	15.60	3.71	16.60	3.75
MN	17.70	3.82	16.20	3.84	17.00	3.85
NM	16.40	3.62	14.90	3.66	15.90	3.70
NY	17.40	3.83	15.30	3.79	16.30	3.81
PA	19.20	3.85	16.80	3.80	17.90	3.80
TX	17.80	3.81	16.10	3.81	17.00	3.85
US	17.10	3.76	15.30	3.76	16.30	3.79
WI utilization						
Grade A milk	17.80	3.81	15.70	3.75	XXX	XXX
Grade B milk	17.20	4.00	15.30	3.96	XXX	XXX

1/Preliminary average buying prices received for milk of average test. All milk price published by NASS reflects the gross milk price received by farmers.
Source: USDA, NASS, WI FO.

Dairy Products, Production by Selected States and U. S.

Item and area	November 2008	October 2009	November 2009	Change from last year
	1,000 pounds			Percent
CHEESE				
American	338,220	347,075	332,027	-2
Cheddar				
WI	51,874	54,542	53,000	+2
CA	30,502	29,778	24,742	-19
ID	41,178	46,048	45,560	+11
MN	42,635	42,480	39,858	-7
US	257,466	260,952	248,487	-3
Brick & Muenster	11,380	11,480	10,469	-8
Cream & Neufchatel	74,623	77,238	75,684	+1
Hispanic	14,910	16,461	15,630	+5
Mozzarella				
WI	66,227	70,905	71,100	+7
CA	91,757	96,965	99,221	+8
US	261,641	280,011	281,163	+7
Other Italian types	78,742	80,490	81,494	+3
Total Italian				
WI	95,792	103,319	102,547	+7
CA	101,951	107,845	109,548	+7
US	340,383	360,501	362,657	+7
Swiss	25,153	26,316	26,426	+5
All other cheese	23,922	22,827	21,313	-11
Total cheese				
WI	208,955	224,283	217,861	+4
CA	174,599	175,054	170,681	-2
ID	66,441	68,995	67,276	+1
NY	63,014	66,649	64,073	+2
US	828,591	861,898	844,206	+2

Source: USDA, NASS, WI FO

Cold Storage Stocks, United States

Commodity	November 30, 2008	October 31, 2009	November 30, 2009	Change from last year
	1,000 pounds			Percent
CHEESE				
American	526,941	579,808	582,699	+11
Swiss	22,723	23,537	24,208	+7
Other natural	268,969	365,840	354,469	+32
Total	818,633	969,185	961,376	+17
BUTTER	119,946	190,624	142,175	+19
FROZEN				
Beef	481,564	427,716	430,761	-11
Pork	526,680	516,300	487,202	-7
Chicken	811,100	635,993	660,988	-19
Turkey	360,379	509,463	227,668	-37

Source: USDA, NASS, WI FO

November Red Meat Production above Last Year

Commercial red meat production for the United States totaled 3.96 billion pounds in November, up 2 percent from the 3.87 billion pounds produced in November 2008.

Beef production, at 2.02 billion pounds, was 3 percent above the previous year. Cattle slaughter totaled 2.60 million head, up 3 percent from November 2008. The average live weight was down 4 pounds from the previous year, at 1,298 pounds.

Veal production totaled 11.8 million pounds, 5 percent above November a year ago. Calf slaughter totaled 81,200 head, up slightly from November 2008. The average live weight was up 6 pounds from last year, at 246 pounds.

Pork production totaled 1.92 billion pounds, up 2 percent from the previous year. Hog kill totaled 9.46 million head, up 1 percent from November 2008. The average live weight was up 1 pound from the previous year, at 272 pounds.

Lamb and mutton production, at 14.4 million pounds, was up 12 percent from November 2008. Sheep slaughter totaled 219,200 head, 14 percent above last year. The average live weight was 131 pounds, down 3 pounds from November a year ago.

January to November 2009 commercial red meat production was 45.1 billion pounds, down 2 percent from 2008. Accumulated beef production was down 3 percent from last year, veal was down 4 percent, pork was down 1 percent from last year, and lamb and mutton production was down 2 percent.

November 2008 contained 20 weekdays (including two holidays) and 5 Saturdays. November 2009 contained 21 weekdays (including two holidays) and 4 Saturdays.

Commercial Red Meat Production, United States 1/

Type	Nov. 2008	Oct. 2009	Nov. 2009	Jan - Nov. 2/		Change from last
				2008	2009	
	Million pounds					Percent
Beef	1,959	2275*	2,015	24,478	23,829	-3
Veal	11	12	12	130	125	-4
Pork	1,886	2,089	1,921	21,295	21,008	-1
Lamb & mutton	13	14	14	158	155	-2
Total red meat 3/	3,870	4391*	3,963	46,062	45,117	-2

*Revised. 1/Based on packers' dressed weights and excludes farm slaughter. 2/Accumulated totals and percentages based on unrounded data. 3/Totals may not equal sum of the parts due to rounding. Source: USDA, NASS, WI FO.

Commercial Slaughter 1/, November 2009

Species	Wisconsin	Change from last year	U. S.	Change from last year
	1,000 hd	Percent	1,000 hd	Percent
Cattle, all	137.8	-4	2,599.3	+3
Calves	2/	2/	81.2	-
Hogs, all	35.0	-11	9,460.5	+1
Sheep and lambs	1.0	-17	219.2	+14

1/Excludes farm slaughter. 2/Data not published to avoid disclosing individual operations. Source: USDA, NASS, WI FO



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U.S. Hog Inventory Down 2 Percent

Wisconsin's hog and pig inventory was 360,000 head on December 1, 2009, same as last December. Breeding hog inventory, at 50,000, was up 10,000. Market hog numbers declined 10,000 from last year to 310,000 head.

Wisconsin hog and pig data will be published annually, only, starting with December 2009. The quarterly estimating states will now include Utah, but will exclude Arkansas and Wisconsin. This change was due to increased production in Utah and decreased production in Arkansas and Wisconsin. Data from March 2008 forward will reflect this change to provide the user with comparable data for 2008 and 2009.

U.S. inventory of all hogs and pigs on December 1, 2009 was 65.8 million head. This was down 2 percent from December 1, 2008 and down 2 percent from September 1, 2009. Breeding inventory, at 5.85 million head, was down 3 percent from last year and down slightly from the previous quarter. Market hog inventory, at 60.0 million head, was down 2 percent from last year and down 2 percent from last quarter.

Wisconsin's annual pig crop, December 2008-November 2009, was 842,000 head, a 6 percent decrease from the previous year. Sows farrowing during the same period totaled 93,000, down 6 percent. Pigs per litter averaged 9.05, compared to 9.03.

The September-November 2009 US pig crop, at 28.8 million head, was up slightly from 2008 but down 2 percent from 2007. Sows farrowing during this period totaled 2.97 million head, down 2 percent from 2008 and down 6 percent from 2007. The sows farrowed during this quarter represented 51 percent of the breeding herd. The average pigs saved per litter was 9.70 for the September-November 2009 period, compared to 9.50 last year. The litter rate equaled the record for pigs saved per litter set during the June-August 2009 period. Pigs saved per litter by size of operation ranged from 7.40 for operations with 1-99 hogs and pigs to 9.80 for operations with more than 5,000 hogs and pigs.

Hogs and Pigs on Farms, December 1

Selected states	Breeding 2009	Change 2009/08	Market 2009	Change 2009/08	Total hogs 2009	Change 2009/08
	1,000 head	Percent	1,000 head	Percent	1,000 head	Percent
WI	50	+25	310	-3	360	n.c.
IL	480	-2	3,870	n.c.	4,350	n.c.
IN	280	n.c.	3,370	+3	3,650	+3
IA	1,020	-5	18,280	-3	19,300	-3
MI	110	n.c.	970	+5	1,080	+5
MN	560	-3	6,840	-1	7,400	-1
NC	930	-5	8,770	+1	9,700	n.c.
US	5,850	-3	59,957	-2	65,807	-2

Source: USDA, NASS, WI FO

Sows Farrowing and Pig Crop, Annual 2009

Selected states	Sows farrowing 2009	Change 2009/08	Litter rate 2009	Pig crop 2009	Change 2009/08
	1,000 head	Percent	Number	1,000 head	Percent
WI	93	-6	9.05	842	-6
IL	1,005	+4	9.49	9,535	+6
IN	545	-6	9.44	5,143	-3
IA	1,970	-6	9.70	19,108	n.c.
MI	220	+4	9.69	2,131	+6
MN	1,130	-1	9.94	11,229	+3
NC	2,130	-2	9.64	20,530	n.c.
US	11,969	-2	9.62	115,174	n.c.

Source: USDA, NASS, WI FO



Prices Received by Farmers

Prices in Wisconsin for steers and heifers are expected to decrease from November to December. However, prices for beef cows and cull dairy cows sold for slaughter, milk, oats, soybeans, potatoes, alfalfa hay, and other hay are expected to increase during the same period. Prices for calves and corn are expected to stay at about the same level as November.

As of mid-December, the average price Wisconsin farmers received for corn was \$3.63 per bushel, the same as in November and 44 cents below December 2008. Nationwide, corn prices averaged \$3.59 per bushel in mid-December, down 52 cents from December of last year.

Wisconsin soybeans increased 32 cents per bushel from November, for an average of \$9.88 per bushel in mid-December. This is a 91 cent per bushel increase from December of last year. U.S. soybeans sold for \$9.96 per bushel in mid-December, up 72 cents from December 2008.

Oat prices in Wisconsin averaged \$1.79 per bushel in mid-December, up 1 cent from November. Nationally, oat prices were \$2.07 per bushel, down just over a third from the December 2008 price of \$3.12 per bushel.

As of mid-December, alfalfa hay in Wisconsin sold for an average price of \$110.00 per ton, up \$10.00 from November. The average price for other hay types, at \$80.00 per ton, was also up \$10.00 from November.

Wisconsin steer and heifer prices averaged \$76.00 per hundred-weight (cwt.) in mid-December, 90 cents below November. Prices for beef cows and cull dairy cows sold for slaughter increased 40 cents per cwt. from November to \$41.40 in mid-December. Calf prices in mid-December were \$127.00 per cwt., unchanged from November.

At the U.S. level, steer and heifer prices in mid-December were \$2.20 per cwt. below a year ago, at \$83.50. Prices for beef cows and cull dairy cows sold for slaughter, at an average of \$42.90 per cwt., were up \$2.70 from December of last year. Calf prices, at \$105.00 per cwt., were up \$6.10 from December 2008.

Prices Received

Commodity	Unit	Wisconsin			U.S.	
		Dec. 2008	Nov. 2009	Dec. 15, 2009	Dec. 2008	Dec. 15, 2009
		Dollars			Dollars	
Milk cows 1/	Head	-	-	-	-	-
Steers and heifers	Cwt.	75.80	76.90	76.00	85.70	83.50
Cows 2/	Cwt.	38.50	41.00	41.40	40.20	42.90
Calves	Cwt.	129.00	127.00	127.00	98.90	105.00
Milk, all	Cwt.	16.90	15.70	16.60	15.50	16.30
Corn	Bu.	4.07	3.63	3.63	4.11	3.59
Oats	Bu.	2.60	1.78	1.79	3.12	2.07
Soybeans	Bu.	8.97	9.56	9.88	9.24	9.96
Potatoes, all 3/ 4/	Cwt.	12.10	7.95	8.25	9.30	7.16
Fresh	Cwt.	15.70	6.95	-	14.19	-
Processing	Cwt.	8.15	8.80	-	6.31	-
Alfalfa hay, baled	Ton	115.00	100.00	110.00	152.00	110.00
Other hay, baled	Ton	80.00	70.00	80.00	109.00	98.90
Wheat, all 5/	Bu.	-	-	-	5.95	4.81
Winter Wheat, all	Bu.	-	-	-	5.40	4.49
Barley, all 5/	Bu.	-	-	-	5.49	4.15
Dry Edible Beans 5/	Cwt.	-	-	-	34.20	31.80
Apples, fresh use 5/	Lb.	-	-	-	0.29	0.27
Hogs, all 5/	Cwt.	-	-	-	41.90	43.70

1/Milk cow prices are published quarterly for January, April, July, and October.

2/Beef cows and cull dairy cows sold for slaughter. 3/Entire month. 4/Average

price of potatoes sold for all uses, including table stock, processing, seed, and livestock feed. 5/Mid-month. Monthly estimates for wheat, barley, dry beans, apples, and hogs are not published for Wisconsin. Source: USDA, NASS, WI FO

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